

Message Text

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PAGE 01 HAMILT 00403 292156Z
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C O N F I D E N T I A L HAMILTON 403
E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PINS, MARR, BD
SUBJECT: COURTESY CALLS ON ACTING GOVERNOR, PREMIER AND
THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

1. UPON RETURN FROM HOME LEAVE, I CALLED ON ACTING GOVERNOR PETER LLOYD, THE PREMIER AND LOIS BROWNE-EVANS IN ORDER TO REVIEW WITH THEM HIGHLIGHTS OF SOME OF THE MORE INTERESTING POLITICALLY-RELATED ACTIVITIES THAT TRANSPIRED DURING MY TWO-MONTH ABSENCE. I ALSO GAVE LLOYD AND THE PREMIER A GENERAL OVERVIEW OF MY CONSULTATIONS IN THE DEPARTMENT PARTICULARLY ON STATUS OF U.S. TRAINING OF THE BERMUDA REGIMENT AND CURRENT STATUS OF NEGOTIATIONS LEADING TO RETURN OF SOME OF THE LEASED LANDS.

2. THE PRINCIPAL SUBJECTS DISCUSSED HAVE BEEN BRIEFLY REPORTED TO THE DEPARTMENT (299)*26)#. THEY ARE: REACTION TO THE PITT COMMISSION REPORT AND ITS IMMEDIATE AND LONGRANGE POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS PARTICULARLY WITH REGARD TO INDEPENDENCE AND ELECTORAL REFORM. THE RESULTS OF THE UNITED BERMUDA PARTY (UBP) CANVASS OF EARLY JUNE PRINCIPALLY SURVEYING THE SAME TWO ISSUES. THE INCIDENT OF THE UBP SPONSORED "SECRET" TELEPHONE SURVEY WHICH CAUSED A MINOR UPROAR IN THE PRESS HERE IN EARLY JULY, THE POLITICAL CONSEQUENCES OF THE PROCEDURES EMPLOYED AND THE OVERALL PURPOSE OF THE POLL. THE POSSIBILITY
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 HAMILT 00403 292156Z

OF BY-ELECTIONS IN THE NEAR FUTURE FOR TWO HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY SEATS IN PAGET PARISH EAST AND WEST.

3. AS EACH OF THESE SUBJECTS, IN THE BERMUDA CONTEXT, IS OF SOME SIGNIFICANT IMPORTANCE TO THE POLITICAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL FUTURE OF BERMUDA, I HAVE PREPARED DETAILED REPORTS OF THE DISCUSSIONS AND AN ANALYSIS OF WHAT IMPLICATIONS THEY COULD

HAVE ON U.S. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES HERE IN THE LONG-TERM.
THOSE REPORTS ARE BEING TRANSMITTED BY SEPARATE CABLE.

4. ON THE DISCUSSION OF MY CONSULTATION IN THE DEPARTMENT,
BOTH THE ACTING GOVERNOR AND THE PREMIER WERE PLEASED THAT
THE SUBJECT OF FUTURE U.S.-BASED TRAINING OF THE REGIMENT
WAS BEING DISCUSSED AT THE APPROPRIATE DOD/BRITISH EMBASSY
LEVEL. I LEARNED THAT THE JAMAICAN GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN
APPROACHED WITH PLANS FOR NEXT YEAR'S TRAINING (FEBRUARY 1979).
THEREFORE, THERE IS NO URGENT TIME PRESSURE TO FORMALIZE
ARRANGEMENTS; AS THE EARLIEST NEED FOR FACILITIES WOULD BE
DURING THE 1980 WINTER TRAINING CYCLE. ALTHOUGH I ASSURED
THE PREMIER THAT THE USG WAS ACTIVELY CONSIDERING THE PROPOSED
RECOMMENDATIONS LEADING TO THE RETURN OF SOME OF THE U.S.
BASE LANDS, HE EXPRESSED DISAPPOINTMENT THAT I HAD NOTHING
MORE SUBSTANTIVE TO REPORT ON THAT SUBJECT AND URGED THAT
EARLIEST POSSIBLE ACTION BE TAKEN IN THAT REGARD.

RAND

NOTE BY OC/T: # AS RECEIVED.

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